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## Trump administration is still resisting the judge's orders in Abrego Garcia deportation case

By **BEN FINLEY**  
**Associated Press**

The Trump administration on Wednesday continued to resist a federal judge's orders to produce information about the steps it has taken, if any, to return a Maryland man who was mistakenly deported to El Salvador. Drew Ensign, a deputy assistant attorney general, filed a sealed motion asking for a stay of the judge's order to provide sworn testimony and documents about the U.S. government's efforts to retrieve Kilmar Abrego Garcia. The request comes just hours after U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis in Maryland had castigated the Trump administration in a written filing Tuesday for ignoring her orders, obstructing the legal process and acting in "bad faith" by refusing to provide information. Xinis gave the administration until 6 p.m. Wednesday to produce information. The White House has instead filed a sealed motion requesting a stay of seven days of her order. The administration is also seeking



The E. Barrett Prettyman United States Courthouse in Washington, Oct. 11, 2019.

relief from providing daily status updates on Abrego Garcia's status and efforts to return him. Lawyers for Abrego Garcia filed a response in opposition to the government's motion later on Wednesday morning. Tom Homan, the Trump administration's border czar, did not directly address the judge's comments from Tuesday when asked by reporters at the White House on Wednesday. But he reiterated the administration's position that Abrego Garcia will be detained and deported

again if he were to be returned to the U.S. The U.S. Supreme Court ordered the Trump administration nearly two weeks ago to facilitate Abrego Garcia's return to the U.S., rejecting the White House's claim that it couldn't retrieve him after mistakenly deporting him. Trump administration officials have pushed back, arguing that it is up to El Salvador — though the president of El Salvador has also said he lacks the power to return Abrego Garcia. The administration has also argued that

information about any steps it has taken or could take to return Abrego Garcia is protected by attorney-client privilege laws, state secret laws, general "government privilege" or other secrecy rules. But Xinis said those claims, without any facts to back them up, reflected a "willful and bad faith refusal to comply with discovery obligations." "For weeks, Defendants have sought refuge behind vague and unsubstantiated assertions of privilege, using them as a shield to obstruct discovery and evade compliance with this Court's orders," Xinis wrote in the order Tuesday. "Defendants have known, at least since last week, that this Court requires specific legal and factual showings to support any claim of privilege. Yet they have continued to rely on boilerplate assertions. That ends now." Abrego Garcia, 29, lived in the U.S. for roughly 14 years, during which he worked in construction, got married and was raising three children with disabilities, according to court records.

A U.S. immigration judge had shielded Abrego Garcia from deportation to El Salvador in 2019, ruling that he would likely face persecution there by local gangs that had terrorized his family. He also was given a federal permit to work in the United States, where he was a metal worker and union member, according to Abrego Garcia's lawyers. But the Trump administration expelled Abrego Garcia to El Salvador last month anyway. Administration officials later described the mistake as "an administrative error" but insisted that Abrego Garcia was a member of the MS-13 gang. Abrego Garcia was never charged with a crime and has denied the allegations. His attorneys have pointed out that the criminal informant claimed he was a member of MS-13 in Long Island, New York, where he has never lived. It's not the first time the Trump administration has faced a scathing order from a federal judge over its approach to deportation cases. □



Shipping containers are seen at Port Jersey, Friday, April 18, 2025, in Jersey City, N.J.

**Associated Press**

By **LARRY NEUMEISTER**  
**Associated Press**  
**NEW YORK (AP)** — A dozen states sued the Trump administration in the U.S. Court of International Trade in New York on Wednesday to stop its tariff

policy, saying it is unlawful and has brought chaos to the American economy. The lawsuit said the policy put in place by President Donald Trump has been subject to his "whims rather

## A dozen states sue the Trump administration to stop tariff policy

than the sound exercise of lawful authority." It challenged Trump's claim that he could arbitrarily impose tariffs based on the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. The suit asks the court to declare the tariffs to be illegal, and to block government agencies and its officers from enforcing them. A message sent to the Justice Department for comment was not immediately returned. The states listed as plaintiffs

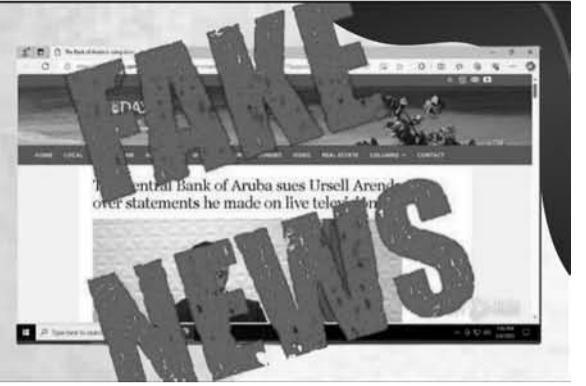
in the lawsuit were Oregon, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York and Vermont. In a release, Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes called Trump's tariff scheme "insane." She said it was "not only economically reckless — it is illegal." The lawsuit maintained that only Congress has the power to impose tariffs and that the president can only invoke

the International Emergency Economic Powers Act when an emergency presents an "unusual and extraordinary threat" from abroad. "By claiming the authority to impose immense and ever-changing tariffs on whatever goods entering the United States he chooses, for whatever reason he finds convenient to declare an emergency, the President has upended the constitutional order and brought chaos to the American economy," the lawsuit said. □

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## Veterans Affairs asks employees to report 'anti-Christian bias' for investigation by new task force

By STEPHEN GROVES

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Department of Veterans Affairs is establishing a task force to investigate employee reports of alleged anti-Christian bias among their colleagues, part of a broader effort by the Trump administration to infuse its agenda with religious purpose and champion the rights of Christians.

VA Secretary Doug Collins this week sent a rare department-wide email requesting employees to report any allegations of "anti-Christian discrimination" among their colleagues. The email, which was reviewed by The Associated Press, asks for "names, dates, and locations" of any alleged incidents to be reported to an internal email address. The Guardian first reported the email. President Donald Trump has launched a government-wide task force



**Doug Collins, President Donald Trump's pick to be Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, speaks at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, at the Capitol in Washington, Jan. 21, 2025.**

aimed at rooting out any bias against Christians, who are by far the largest faith group in the United States and hold significant po-

litical power. The two-year task force, chaired by Attorney General Pam Bondi and composed of Cabinet and other government rep-

resentatives, is supposed to "identify any unlawful anti-Christian" actions under the Biden administration, change any objectionable

policies and recommend steps to rectify any past failures.

The establishment of the task force at the VA comes as much of the staff is facing uncertainty about the future of the sprawling agency charged with providing medical and other benefits for millions of military veterans. The department is in the midst of a resizing effort that could lead to cuts of over 80,000 jobs. The email from Collins instructs employees to report any incidents of "anti-Christian discrimination" including "adverse responses to requests for religious exemption under the previous vaccine mandates," reprimands for displaying Christian imagery or symbols, "unofficial understandings hostile to Christian views" and retaliation of threats for abstaining from procedure like abortions or hormone therapy for people who are transgender. □

Associated Press

## Iran agrees to allow in a team to discuss restoring nuclear monitoring, a U.N. watchdog says

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Iran has agreed to allow in an International Atomic Energy Agency technical team in the coming days to discuss restoring camera surveillance at nuclear sites, the head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog said Wednesday, calling it an encouraging signal of Iran's attitude toward nuclear talks with the United States.

Rafael Mariano Grossi, speaking to reporters in Washington after meeting with Iranian officials in Tehran last week, joined the American and Iranian sides in projecting optimism after a second round of negotiations Saturday over the Islamic Republic's rapidly advancing nuclear program. Technical-level talks were expected this week.

Iranian leaders were engaged "with a sense of trying to get to an agreement," Grossi said. "That is my impression."

The U.S. is looking to ensure Iran doesn't develop nuclear weapons, while Iran wants the easing of sanctions that have damaged its economy.

After President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of an Iran's nuclear deal with world powers in his first term, it responded by curtailing access and monitoring by the IAEA at nuclear sites. Since then, Iran has pressed ahead on enriching and stockpiling uranium that is closer to weapons-grade levels, the agency says.

Iranian Supreme Ali Khamenei long has refrained from ordering the final steps needed to make nuclear bombs. Iranian leaders say their nuclear sites are for civilian purposes only. □



**In this photo released by the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General, Rafael Mariano Grossi attends a meeting with the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Mohammad Eslami, in Tehran, Iran, Thursday, April 17, 2025.**

Associated Press

# FSU students who endured Parkland shooting urge Florida lawmakers to defend gun control law

By KATE PAYNE  
Associated Press/Report for America

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)** — Florida students who were traumatized by the 2018 Parkland school shooting and last week's deadly shooting at Florida State University are urging the Republican-controlled statehouse not to roll back gun restrictions passed in the wake of the killing at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Gun rights activists have been fighting to unravel the 2018 law since its passage, including a provision that raised the state's minimum age to buy a gun to 21.

Following the FSU shooting, student activists are urging lawmakers to support gun control policies in the final two weeks of the legislative session, which is set to end May 2.

"No one should ever have to experience a school shooting let alone two just to have to beg lawmakers to care enough to stop the next one," said Stephanie Horowitz, who was a freshman at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in 2018 and is now a graduate student at FSU.



Students and activists rally for gun control policies outside of Florida's historic old capitol on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 in Tallahassee, Fla., less than a week after a deadly shooting at Florida State University.

Associated Press

Two people were killed and six others injured in the shooting last Thursday that terrorized FSU's campus, about a mile (1.6 kilometers) from the state Capitol. As of Wednesday, the 20-year-old student who investigators have identified as the suspect remains hospitalized and in good

condition, officials said. Charges aren't expected to be filed against Phoenix Ikner until he's released. Logan Rubenstein was in eighth grade at nearby Coral Springs Middle School when a 19-year-old gunman armed with an AR-15-style rifle killed 17 people and injured 17 oth-

ers at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Now the 21-year-old is a junior at FSU.

"It wasn't as deadly as it could have been," Rubenstein said of the FSU shooting. "And to me, that's because of the laws that we passed after Parkland." In the aftermath of the

Parkland massacre, survivors and relatives of the victims descended on the state capitol in an extraordinary feat of advocacy, successfully pushing the Republican-led legislature to pass wide-ranging gun legislation just weeks afterward.

That included establishing a red flag law, which allows courts to take away guns from people who pose a danger to themselves or others, and raising the state's gun-buying age.

Investigators say the FSU suspect armed himself with a handgun that was the former service weapon of his stepmother, a local sheriff's deputy.

Under current Florida law, Ikner couldn't legally buy a rifle from a federally licensed dealer.

Rubenstein said his message to lawmakers is to find the "political courage" to protect the state's gun restrictions.

"When it comes to life and death, it's important to do the right thing," he said.

About three weeks before the FSU shooting, the Florida House passed a bill that would lower the state's minimum age to buy a gun to 18. □

# California expands its electric school bus fleet as federal freeze paused efforts elsewhere

**SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)** — California is spending \$500 million to put an additional

1,000 electric school buses on the road as federal cuts and freezes paused efforts



Zum electric buses are plugged into charging stations before a news conference announcing the Oakland Unified School District as being the first major school district in the country to use 100% electric school buses at the Zum/OUUSD bus yard in Oakland, Calif., Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2024.

Associated Press

in other states to replace aging diesel-fueled fleets that are more polluting.

Gov. Gavin Newsom's office announced Wednesday that 1,000 zero-emission school buses and related charging infrastructure will be provided to over 130 rural, low-income and disadvantaged school districts. The state grants add about 500 more charging stations for school buses to more than 200 stations already in operation in districts.

The expansion contrasts efforts in other states that were hampered by the uncertainty over federal funds. For months, more than 500 districts nation-

wide were waiting on around \$1 billion from the Environmental Protection Agency to cover more than 3,400 electric buses, sparking panic and confusion. Some districts delayed or canceled their purchases.

California has the largest fleet of electric school buses in the country after pumping more than \$1.3 billion into such efforts and funding more than 2,300 of the buses. Of those, 1,100 are already in use and some districts are 100% electric.

"California is committed to continuing efforts to reduce children's exposure to toxic diesel pollution

through the deployment of zero-emission school buses," Liane Randolph, chair of the California Air Resources Board, said in an email. The board helps lead the state's efforts on climate change and oversees air pollution control efforts. "State funding is especially critical as schools grapple with the rollback of federal support."

In California, the efforts are funded primarily by proceeds from its cap-and-trade program. The program caps carbon emissions and requires polluters to obtain permits for each ton of carbon they release. □

## Antisemitic incidents slow worldwide from post-Oct. 7 spike, but remain higher than before Gaza war

By MELANIE LIDMAN  
Associated Press

**TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)** — Antisemitic attacks have increased dramatically since the war in Gaza began, though the numbers declined slightly last year from a peak reached immediately after the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attack against Israel, according to an annual report about global antisemitism from Tel Aviv University.

"Contrary to popular belief, the report's findings indicate that the wave of antisemitism did not steadily intensify due to the war in Gaza and the humanitarian disaster there," said Uriya Shavit, the chief editor of the report.

He said there was a sharp increase in attacks against Jews from October to December 2023, but that in 2024, the number of incidents declined in almost every country around the world. "The sad truth is that antisemitism reared its head at the moment when the Jewish state appeared weaker than ever and under existential threat," he said. The numbers of attacks in 2024 was still signifi-



Damage is seen inside a synagogue where a man armed with a knife and a metal bar is suspected of having set a fire in Rouen, France, on Friday, May 17, 2024.

cantly higher than in 2022, before the war.

Two notable exceptions to this trend were Australia and Italy, where attacks rose sharply in 2024. Australia recorded 1,713 antisemitic incidents in 2024, compared to 1,200 in 2023. This included an arson attack that caused extensive damage at a synagogue in Melbourne in December,

as well as other incidents of vandalism, including at a synagogue in Hobart, Tasmania. In Italy, there were 877 antisemitic incidents in 2024, compared with 454 in 2023, and 241 in 2022.

The number of attacks also rose slightly in the U.S. and Argentina, but not as significantly.

The report also condemned the lack of punishment for

perpetrators of antisemitic attacks. Many incidents are not reported to the police, and of those, very few result in arrests. In major cities with large Jewish populations, including New York, Chicago, London and Toronto, less than 10% of antisemitic crimes resulted in arrests between 2021 and 2023, the report found.

"Education and legislation

without enforcement are meaningless," said Carl Yonker, a senior researcher at Tel Aviv University who contributed to the report.

Each year, Tel Aviv University's Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry and the Irwin Cotler Institute for Democracy, Human Rights and Justice, releases a report about antisemitism ahead of Israel's commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day. The day marks a national memorial for the 6 million Jews killed in the Holocaust, which the country observes starting on Wednesday evening.

The statistics are based on reports from police, national authorities and local Jewish communities.

Earlier this week, the Anti-Defamation League also released its major report about antisemitism in the United States. For the first time in nearly 50 years of compiling data, the organization said that Israel-related incidents, including chants, speeches and signs at rallies protesting Israeli policies, made up more than half of the reported incidents in 2024. □

Associated Press

## Polish foreign minister denounces Russian aggression: 'Don't you have enough land?'

**WARSAW, Poland (AP)** — Poland's foreign minister on Wednesday used an annual address to parliament to send a sharp message to Russian leaders as war continues in neighboring Ukraine, asking: "Don't you have enough land?" Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski described the difficult situation Poland faces with the war across the border and the threat of its expansion, and voiced concerns about the "disintegration" of Western unity. Poland, on NATO's eastern flank, is one of Kyiv's strongest supporters, and Sikorski used his speech to strongly criticize Russia. He said, addressing Rus-

sian leaders: "Don't you have enough land? Eleven time zones and still not enough? Take care of better governing what is within your borders according to international law."

Sikorski described the deteriorating security situation with a war next to Poland's border: "Anxiety, and the question of what will happen, have settled in Polish homes. Are we also at risk of Russian aggression? Are the relations between Europe and the United States heading towards a crisis? Can Europe quickly improve its defense capabilities?"

Poland and European allies are trying to strengthen their defenses, fearing that

Russian aggression won't stop in Ukraine, while the Trump administration signals that Europe must take up more security responsibilities.

Though he did not mention U.S. President Donald Trump by name, Sikorski's address appeared to include implicit criticism of concessions Trump has been willing to make to Russia to bring an end to the war.

Since taking office again, Trump has falsely claimed Ukraine "should have never started the war," said Ukraine "may be Russian some day" and questioned the legitimacy of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's government.

Trump also upended the longstanding American position of isolating Russia over its aggression by

beginning direct talks with Moscow and voicing positions sounding remarkably like the Kremlin's own. □



Poland's Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski gives a speech at the parliament on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, in Warsaw, Poland.

Associated Press

# Yemen's Houthi rebels fire a missile at northern Israel, the first time for the group to reach there

By JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates

(AP) — Yemen's Houthi rebels launched a missile early Wednesday toward northern Israel, the first such attack by the group to reach the area as a monthlong intense U.S. airstrike campaign continues to target them. The Houthis separately claimed shooting down another American MQ-9 Reaper drone over Yemen.

Sirens sounded in Haifa, Krayot and other areas west of the Sea of Galilee, the Israeli military said.

"An interceptor was launched toward the missile, and the missile was most likely successfully intercepted," the Israeli military said.

Those in the area could hear booms in the predawn darkness.

Houthi military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree later claimed the attack in a prerecorded message, claiming they targeted Haifa with a hypersonic missile. But while Saree has claimed attacks on Haifa in the past, Wednesday's attack was the first to reach the area, the Israeli military acknowledged.



Houthi supporters chant slogans during a weekly, anti-U.S. and anti-Israel rally in Sanaa, Yemen, Friday, April 18, 2025.

Associated Press

American airstrikes, meanwhile, continued targeting the Houthis on Wednesday morning, part of a campaign that began on March 15. The Houthis reported strikes on Hodeida, Marib and Saada governorates. In Marib, the Houthis described a strike hitting telecommunication equipment, which has previously been a target of the Americans.

Houthis claim to have

downed another US drone. The Houthis in response have stepped up their targeting of American drones flying over the country. Late Tuesday, Saree said the rebels shot down an MQ-9 Reaper drone over Yemen's Hajjah governorate.

The U.S. military acknowledged the report of the drone being downed, but said it could not comment further.

Saree said the rebels targeted the drone with "a locally manufactured missile."

The Houthis have surface-to-air missiles such as the Iranian missile known as the 358 capable of downing aircraft. The Houthis claim they downed 26 MQ-9s over the last decade of the Yemen war.

Iran denies arming the rebels, though Tehran-manufactured weaponry has been

found on the battlefield and in sea shipments heading to Yemen for the Shiite Houthi rebels despite a United Nations arms embargo.

General Atomics Reapers, which cost around \$30 million apiece, can fly at altitudes over 40,000 feet (12,100 meters) and remain in the air for over 30 hours. They have been flown by both the U.S. military and the CIA for years over Afghanistan, Iraq and now Yemen.

New US airstrike campaign began March 15

The U.S. is targeting the Houthis because of the group's attacks on shipping in the Red Sea, a crucial global trade route, and on Israel. The Houthis are the last militant group in Iran's self-described "Axis of Resistance" that is capable of regularly attacking Israel.

The new U.S. operation against the Houthis under President Donald Trump is more extensive than attacks on the group were under President Joe Biden, an AP review found. The new campaign started after the rebels threatened to begin targeting "Israeli" ships again over Israel blocking aid from entering the Gaza Strip. □

## Guatemala arrests Indigenous leader of 2023 protests, accusing him of terrorism

By SONIA PÉREZ D.

Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) —

Guatemalan authorities on Wednesday arrested an Indigenous leader of nationwide protests in 2023 that sought to ensure then President-elect Bernardo Arévalo's transition to power while also demanding the resignation of the country's attorney general. The Attorney General's Office accuses Luis Pacheco, now serving in Arévalo's government, of terrorism and illicit association, according to an official who requested anonymity to speak about a case under seal.

In October 2023, Pacheco led an alliance of 48 Indigenous communities in

peaceful protests that shut down highways across Guatemala for three weeks.

Despite Arévalo's resound-

ing victory that August, the Attorney General's Office continued to investigate the election and members of his party, accusing them



Luis Pacheco, President of the K'iche' Indigenous organization "48 Cantones de Totonicapán," poses for photos with Mayors, who are members of the organization, outside the Attorney General's headquarters in Guatemala City, Oct. 11, 2023.

Associated Press

among other things of improperly gathering signatures required for the party to form.

Attorney General Consuelo Porras has been the focus of much of that ire as she has refused to step down or halt her investigations into Arévalo's party. The U.S. government has sanctioned her for allegedly impeding corruption investigations.

Arévalo said later Wednesday that the arrest was unfounded and "spurious" and "criminalizes principles and rights that are guaranteed."

Attorney Francisco Vivar said that federal agents had denied them access to the home where Pacheco was arrested and

they had not seen him since his arrest.

Pacheco, a member of the K'iche' people, said at the time that the galvanizing moment for the community he represented was a raid on electoral offices broadcast live in which federal agents opened and took away despite resistance from some electoral officials boxes containing precinct vote tally sheets.

"The people already voted and you have to respect the decision taken," he said then.

After Arévalo took power, Pacheco was appointed as a deputy minister for sustainable development in the Energy and Mines Ministry. □

## Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

### The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

### The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors

Mr. Glenn and Mrs. Irene Wargo from San Marcos, California, United States.

Ms. Marouska Heyliger, representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the Mr. and Mrs. Wargo were:

- "We fell in love with Aruba from the first year visiting and spending time with our friends Ray and Judy Hughes at Divi Dutch Village"
- "We purchased our time share at Harbor town Aruba August 1990"
- "We love the people of Aruba/ started going to the Driftwood from 1990 until now, they have great seafood"
- "SCUBA opens water diver 1991 Charlie Buddies"
- "Safe island for Irene to go to Casino's at night"



On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Wargo for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □



(Oranjestad)—The cah'i orgel music box is an important and unique instrument that is used on the ABC islands in the Dutch Caribbean. This instrument is a staple in our folklore music, and its significance in the traditions of Aruba has and continues to bring together the old and young.

The origin of the cah'i orgel is said to have come from Europe around 150 years ago. A cross breed between the barrel piano and the organ, the most popular stories said that the instrument came from either England or Germany, but made its way to Italy down to Venezuela, where in 1881, Mr. Horatio Sprock (1866-1949) from Curacao was first introduced to it. After that, Sprock made his own cah'i orgel "Josefina", and successfully debuted it on the streets of Barquisimeto. Back in Curacao,

## Ever heard of the cah'i orgel? A key instrument in Aruban folklore music

he started his own cah'i orgel business along with his brother Luis. In Aruba, it is said that the cah'i orgel was introduced by Rufo Wever, who later in his career became one of the composers for the Aruban national anthem.

Rufo Wever was a young musician in 1937 when he established his own cah'i orgel business on the island. Before that he experimented with his uncle's cah'i orgel, and he over the years he learned to build and repair the instrument. In fact, he was incredibly skilled in this, and he was one of the few to have recognized from the start that the cah'i orgel is an instrument that needs preserving.

As mentioned, the cah'i orgel is a music box. made from mahogany wood, it contains a cylinder with a maximum of eight music pieces. By rotating the lever on the front side of the box, the cah'i orgel produces music similar to that of a piano, and is accompanied often by someone else playing the "wiri", a percussion instrument made out of steel and reminiscent to the Spanish guiro. Back then, you would often also

find someone playing the triangle alongside the cah'i orgel and wiri. In Aruba, the cah'i orgel and wiri is used for traditional music genres, such as the Aruban waltz,

tumba, mazurka and more.

Fun fact: another name for the cah'i orgel is the "tingilingi box." □

Source: "E Cilinder Magico entre Aruba y Curaçao" by Marilyn Alcalá-Wallé, Herta Parabirsing-Balentina and Nidia Rosaria-Wallé.

# Elements

A VIEW TO DINE FOR

## Our Famous Sunday Brunch is Back!

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## The Lionfish And its threat to our marine wild life



**(Oranjestad)—Despite its colorful and striking appearance, the lionfish has become a Caribbean-wide problem for Atlantic sea life. The Aruban marine wild life is also affected by this beautiful dilemma, as it is foreign to our waters and has become a danger to our local fish and reefs.**

Originating from the Indo-Pacific Ocean, the lionfish is a relatively small fish. It has no teeth, but it does protect itself against predators using its sharp, colorful spikes. It is

said that the sting of a lionfish can be up to 100 times more painful than that of a bee's sting.

Its natural predators in the Indo-Pacific are sharks and barracudas, but in the Caribbean Sea, local fish do not recognize the lionfish as part of their diet. In other words, the lionfish has no predators in the Caribbean Sea. And this becomes a major problem for our local marine life; if there are no predators to stimulate population control of lionfish, these fish can

continue to reproduce and expand to other parts of the Atlantic, become more invasive and dangerous for other types of fish.

For Aruba, the lionfish is a problem especially for our local coral reefs. According to Patrick van Brakel, lionfish expert and hunter from the Hunting Lionfish Aruba foundation, every reef has a "cleaning station"—tiny fish that eat algae and other types of waste on a reef, thus maintaining the reef's health and providing food to the fish



population in the area. However, as the lionfish feeds off of these tiny fish, it becomes harder for the coral reef to maintain its health.

Patrick also shares the origins of lionfish in the Caribbean Sea. It is theorized that the introduction of these fish in the Atlantic happened in Florida, where people would buy lionfish from across the world to keep in their aquariums. However, lionfish grow, and as these buyers realized that the fish were too much upkeep, they were let out into the ocean to roam free. From continental USA, the lionfish travelled to and invaded the entire Caribbean area, from Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao up to New York. In Aruba, lionfish were discovered in 2009.

Controlling the lionfish population is challenge, as each female fish can lay up to 40,000 eggs a day. Luckily, we have people like van Brakel who dedicate their lives hunting and capturing these invasive species, using them for consumption and jewelry making.

They are caught with a hand spear, an object resembling a garbage picker with 4 sharp prongs. These spears are used like a sling shot to catch lionfish from a distance. These fish are then put into a collecting tube and taken out of the water. Van Brakel not only catches them himself, but also cooks them for locals and tourists at The LionFish Snack Aruba in Paradera. This way, he does his part in protecting the local wild life. □

## Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour

**ORANJESTAD - Aruba's City Center Street Car - or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad" - is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42**

**seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered streetcar operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.**

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been developed

into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the down town area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high- end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants. The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute



walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

The "Tram van Oranjestad" starts from a balloon loop near the Port of Call and serves the downtown area

and ends at Plaza Nicky. The first ride starts at 10:00 am sharp with intervals of 25minutes. The last trolley departs from the cruise port at 5:00pm. Don't miss this tour of the beautiful Aruba's City Center- it is free for all! □



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## ACF invites you to another Rough Hike

(Oranjestad)—Greet the warm morning sun in Aruba's diverse nature during another edition of Rough Hike through Arikok, organized regularly by the Aruba Conservation Foundation. This hike allows you to get up and close to nature as you trail under the guidance of an experienced ranger.

Date: Sunday, 27 April 2025  
Time: 6:00 AM – 9:30 AM  
Distance: 6.6 km / 4.1 mi

The hike starts at the Parke Nacional Arikok Visitor Center in San Fuego, Santa Cruz. From there, a park ranger will guide you through Miralamar, Masi-duri, Rooi Taki, Sabana Ba-

sora, Isla and Rooi Lamunchi. Transportation from Rooi Lamunchi back to the Visitor Center will be provided by ACF.

So put on your hiking shoes and get ready to explore the rough terrains of Arikok, learn about Aruba's treasured nature and the importance of preservation! □



## Aruban snacks and where to find them

ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack



trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find pastechis and kroketts at local bakeries and snack shops, like Bright Bakery in Piedra Plat, Huchada in Santa Cruz or Pastechi House in the city center. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for

on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batido shops next the flea markets downtown, or if you're on your way to San Nicolas, at Mauchi Smoothies and Juice Bar in Savaneta (located at the side of the main road).

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some



coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

1. Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
2. Along the main road next to the airport field.
3. At the California Light House.
4. At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them! □



Photo credit: [wheninaruba.com](http://wheninaruba.com)

## Aruba: The island of Aloes

**ORANJESTAD** – Aloe vera, a succulent plant species, is renowned for its incredible properties for the skin. It is widely distributed and usually grows in tropical, semi-tropical and arid climates on the planet. But this plant also had a very prominent role in the history of Aruba, and its significance to the island's economy endures to this day.

The leaves of Aloe vera contain a good amount of gel which when used topically, is great for the skin. Traditionally, Arubans use this gel to treat minor burns and other skin ailments, or just to keep skin supple and looking bright and nourished. Aside from the gel, aloe contains a bitter, yellow substance (called aloin) which is a gentle but powerful laxative, and it is also the origin of the industry of aloe in Aruba.

According to the website of Royal Aruba Aloe, Aloe vera was introduced in Aruba around 1840, when most of the island's inhabitants were farmers of little means. Dutch Governor Van Raders intro-



duced the plant after it had been introduced in other islands of the Caribbean to



cultivate and harvest the aloe to produce the laxative.

Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe fields, earning our island the nickname "The Island of Aloes."

Under Commander Jan Helenus Ferguson (1866-1871), aloe experienced a boom, which is why there is a road named after him, which goes through the aloe fields.

In the 19th century, Aruba was the main supplier of aloin for laxative, which was imported abroad to the United States and Europe. The aloin from Aruba and Curaçao was known to be one of the best in the world and was more expensive, which meant that at the time, it had significant economic impact, particularly for the local farmers.

However, by the time the oil industry arrived on Aruba, it changed the labor market on Aruba, shifting away from agriculture. It would be after World War II that aloe would make a comeback. And eventually, as science learned about the amazing properties of aloe gel, the industry shifted from producing laxative to producing skin care. An interesting fact is that in 1951, the production of Aruban aloe amounted to around 30 percent of the total global production!

The impact and relevance of aloe is visible all around Aruba. While most homes will have a few plants for personal use and decoration,



houses are also decorated with aloe motifs, and at some point, aloe even featured on post stamps. Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe fields, earning our island the nickname "The Island of Aloes." And in 1955, the aloe became a part of Aruba's coat of arms, symbolizing prosperity for the island. □

**Images from the archive of the National Library of Aruba.**

## Create museum memories

**ORANJESTAD** — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these museums.

### **Museum of Industry Aruba**

The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas—better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum exhibits the industrial history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history, which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising

vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments Fund in 2003 so it can be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruba Museum Foundation (Fundacion Museo Aruban), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.

For more information, check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

### **Archaeological Museum of Aruba**

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in the area has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st

century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's, AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997, the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004,



a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006, restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the soon-to-be exhibition space. In December 2007, the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location, the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its

permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts attractive public programs, including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueológico Nacional Aruba. □

## The district of Savaneta: The capital before Oranjestad

**(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.**

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the



island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However, Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz

was made.

### The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805)

During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curacao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch

had often forced the indigenous community to work for them.

In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to

what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

### How Savaneta got its name

The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "sabana".

Because of its land surface, Savaneta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th. □

**Source: Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta) by Adolf "Dufi" Kock.**

## Aruba to me

**ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.**

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

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CROSSWORD

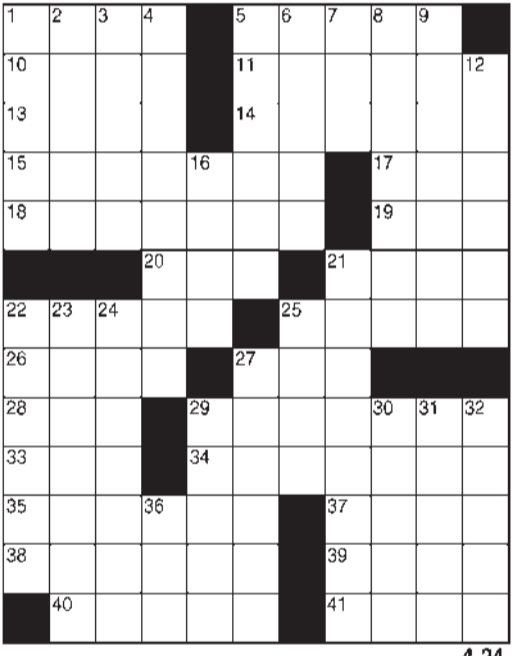
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Torture device  
5 Carell of movies  
10 Lotion additive  
11 Broadway's Bernadette  
13 Gaunt  
14 Bored by routine  
15 Stuck, so to speak  
17 Wedding words  
18 Signifies  
19 Light metal  
20 Farm animal  
21 Blanchett of "Tár"  
22 Like ghost stories  
25 Finishes last  
26 Chuck of "Meet the Press"  
27 "2001" computer  
28 Hosp. parts  
29 Gets rid of  
33 Cut off  
34 Fretting  
35 Confused  
37 Past due  
38 Century division

DOWN

- 39 Resting on  
40 Heads, to Henri  
41 Departed  
1 Overly eager  
2 Without aid  
3 Movie barbarian  
4 Computer need  
5 Book parts  
6 Watches over  
7 Greek vowel  
8 Harvard motto  
9 Learned  
12 Boulders  
16 Tiny  
21 Diner side dish  
22 Un-emotional  
23 Tiara's kin  
24 News-paper revenue source  
25 Hot flow  
27 Door parts  
29 Elec-tronics component  
30 Country division  
31 Wyo-ming's — Range  
32 Used a broom  
36 Diet no-no



AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-24 CRYPTOQUOTE

B CMD NYJ IY PGMJQP IRCI  
RJZCGBIN BM MPQEPU LN  
TPCKIR CGU GYI QJKPU LN BI.

— VYVP AQCGOBM  
Cryptoquote: WHAT I HEAR WHEN  
I'M BEING YELLED AT IS PEOPLE CARING REALLY  
LOUDLY AT ME. — LESLIE KNOPE, "PARKS AND  
RECREATION"

Cruise ship Schedule: April 22 - 30 2025

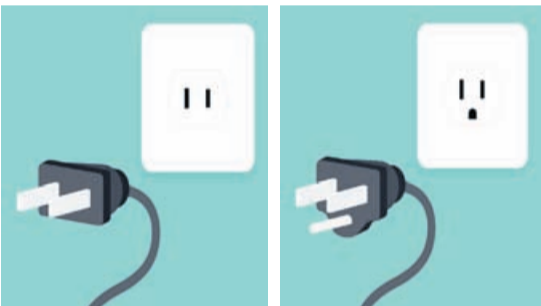
			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	22	CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	C	1
		OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	I	1
WED	23	FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	24	NORWEGIAN GEM	08.00	20.00	C	1
FRI	25	NORWEGIAN GETAWAY	11.00	21.00	C	1
SUN	27	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	11.59	23.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	29	CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	B	1
		CELEBRITY REFLECTION	08.00	23.00	C	1
WED	30	FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

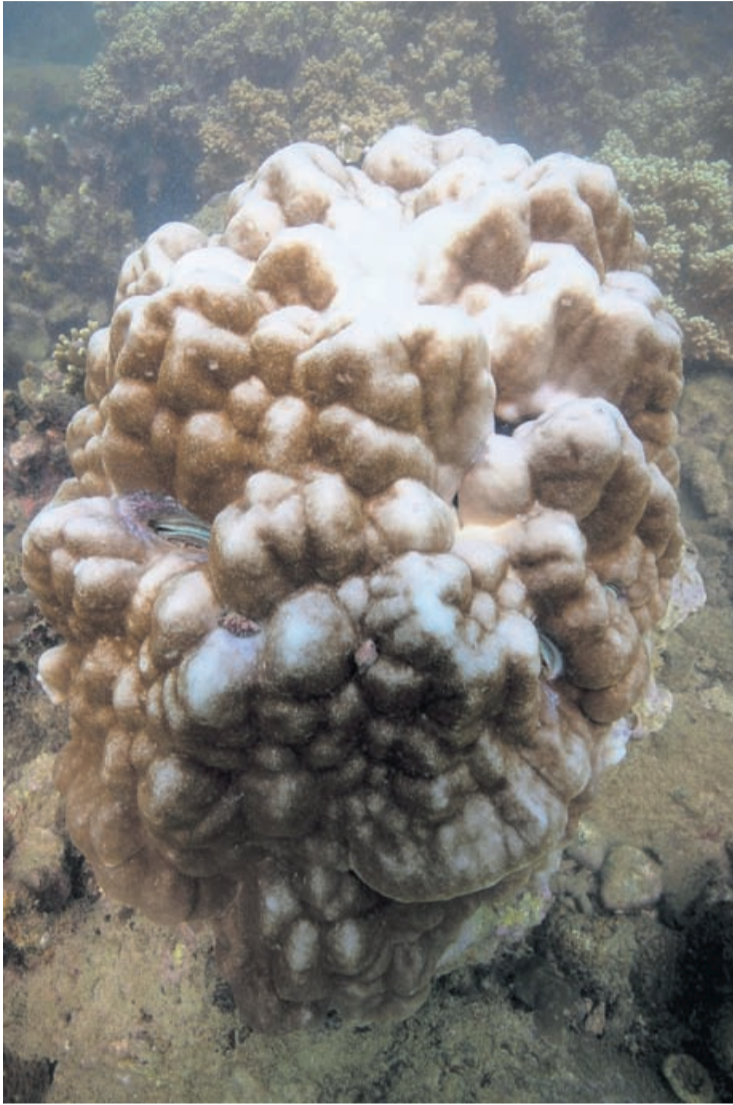


Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



# 84% of the world's coral reefs hit by worst bleaching event on record



Bleaching is visible on coral reef off the coast of Nha Trang, Vietnam, Oct. 24, 2024.

Associated Press

By ISABELLA O'MALLEY  
Associated Press

Harmful bleaching of the world's coral has grown to include 84% of the ocean's reefs in the most intense event of its kind in recorded history, the International Coral Reef Initiative announced Wednesday. It's the fourth global bleaching event since 1998, and has now surpassed bleaching from 2014-17 that hit some two-thirds of reefs, said the ICRI, a mix of more than 100 governments, non-governmental organizations and others. And it's not clear when the current crisis, which began in 2023 and is blamed on warming oceans, will end. "We may never see the heat stress that causes bleaching dropping below the threshold that triggers a global event," said Mark Eakin, corresponding secretary for the International Coral Reef Society and

retired chief of the Coral Reef Watch program of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "We're looking at something that's completely changing the face of our planet and the ability of our oceans to sustain lives and livelihoods," Eakin said. Last year was Earth's hottest year on record, and much of that is going into oceans. The average annual sea surface temperature of oceans away from the poles was a record 20.87 degrees Celsius (69.57 degrees Fahrenheit). That's deadly to corals, which are key to sea-food production, tourism and protecting coastlines from erosion and storms. Coral reefs are sometimes dubbed "rainforests of the sea" because they support high levels of biodiversity approximately 25% of all marine species can be found in, on and around

coral reefs. Coral get their bright colors from the colorful algae that live inside them and are a food source for the corals. Prolonged warmth causes the algae to release toxic compounds, and the coral eject them. A stark white skeleton is left behind, and the weakened coral is at heightened risk of dying. The bleaching event has been so severe that NOAA's Coral Reef Watch program has had to add levels to its bleaching alert scale to account for the growing risk of coral death. Efforts are underway to conserve and restore coral. One Dutch lab has worked with coral fragments, including some taken from off the coast of the Seychelles, to propagate them in a zoo so that they might be used someday to repopulate wild coral reefs if needed. Other projects, including one off Florida, have worked to rescue corals endangered by high heat and nurse them back to health before returning them to the ocean. But scientists say it's essential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that warm the planet, such as carbon dioxide and methane. "The best way to protect coral reefs is to address the root cause of climate change. □

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## HEALTH

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#### Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

#### San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours  
Tel. 524 8833

### PHARMACY ON DUTY

#### Oranjestad:

Eagle: Tel. 587 9011

#### San Nicolas:

Centro Medico: Tel. 584 5794

### OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850  
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002  
Urgent Care 586 0448  
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic  
+297 588 0539

### EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

### TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

### TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

### AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank  
Tel. 588 0002  
FAVI- Visually Impaired  
Tel. 582 5051  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Tel. 736 2952  
Narcotics Anonymous  
Tel. 583 8989  
Fundacion Contra Violencia  
Relacional Tel. 583 5400  
Centre for Diabetes  
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Tel. 582 4433  
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS



# Ex-OpenAI workers ask California and Delaware AGs to block for-profit conversion of ChatGPT maker

By **MATT O'BRIEN**

**AP Technology Writer**

Former employees of OpenAI are asking the top law enforcement officers in California and Delaware to stop the company from shifting control of its artificial intelligence technology from a nonprofit charity to a for-profit business.

They're concerned about what happens if the ChatGPT maker fulfills its ambition to build AI that outperforms humans, but is no longer accountable to its public mission to safeguard that technology from causing grievous harms.

"Ultimately, I'm worried about who owns and controls this technology once it's created," said Page Hedley, a former policy and ethics adviser at OpenAI, in an interview with The Associated Press.

Backed by three Nobel Prize winners and other advocates and experts, Hedley and nine other ex-OpenAI workers sent a letter this week to the two state attorneys general.

The coalition is asking California Attorney General Rob Bonta and Delaware Attorney General Kathy Jennings, both Democrats, to use their authority to protect OpenAI's charitable purpose and block its planned restructuring. OpenAI is incorporated in



The OpenAI logo appears on a mobile phone in front of a screen showing part of the company website in this photo taken on Nov. 21, 2023 in New York.

Delaware and operates out of San Francisco.

OpenAI said in response that "any changes to our existing structure would be in service of ensuring the broader public can benefit from AI." It said its for-profit will be a public benefit corporation, similar to other AI labs like Anthropic and tech billionaire Elon Musk's xAI, except that OpenAI will still preserve a nonprofit arm.

"This structure will continue to ensure that as the for-profit succeeds and grows, so too does the nonprofit,

enabling us to achieve the mission," the company said in a statement.

The letter is the second petition to state officials this month. The last came from a group of labor leaders and nonprofits focused on protecting OpenAI's billions of dollars of charitable assets.

Jennings said last fall she would "review any such transaction to ensure that the public's interests are adequately protected." Bonta's office sought more information from OpenAI late last year but has said

it can't comment, even to confirm or deny if it is investigating.

OpenAI's co-founders, including current CEO Sam Altman and Musk, originally started it as a nonprofit research laboratory on a mission to safely build what's known as artificial general intelligence, or AGI, for humanity's benefit. Nearly a decade later, OpenAI has reported its market value as \$300 billion and counts 400 million weekly users of ChatGPT, its flagship product.

OpenAI already has a for-

profit subsidiary but faces a number of challenges in converting its core governance structure. One is a lawsuit from Musk, who accuses the company and Altman of betraying the founding principles that led the Tesla CEO to invest in the charity.

While some of the signatories of this week's letter support Musk's lawsuit, Hedley said others are "understandably cynical" because Musk also runs his own rival AI company.

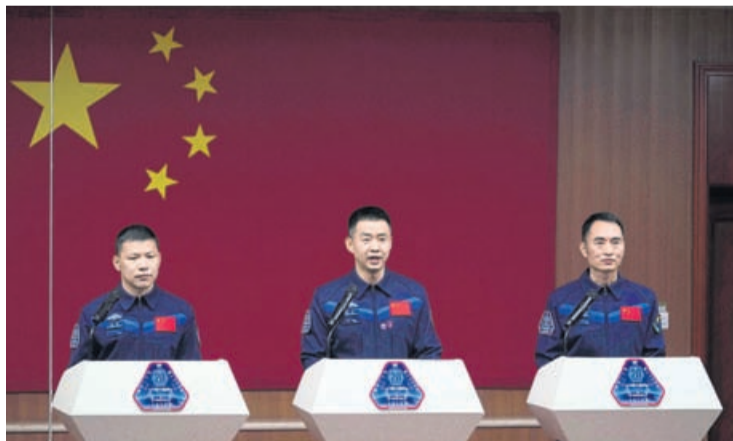
The signatories include two Nobel-winning economists, Oliver Hart and Joseph Stiglitz, as well as AI pioneers and computer scientists Geoffrey Hinton, who won last year's Nobel Prize in physics, and Stuart Russell.

"I like OpenAI's mission to 'ensure that artificial general intelligence benefits all of humanity,' and I would like them to execute that mission instead of enriching their investors," Hinton said in a statement Wednesday. "I'm happy there is an effort to hold OpenAI to its mission that does not involve Elon Musk."

Conflicts over OpenAI's purpose have long simmered at the San Francisco institute, contributing to Musk quitting in 2018, Altman's short-lived ouster in 2023 and other high-profile departures. □

**Associated Press**

## China reveals new team of astronauts for space station launch



Astronauts for the upcoming Shenzhou 20 mission captain Chen Dong, center, Wang Jie, left, and Chen Zhongrui meet with the press at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China, Wednesday, April 23, 2025.

**Associated Press**

**Beijing (AP)** - Astronauts are Chen Dong, Chen Zhongrui, and Wang Jie, Lin Xiqiang,

(AP Photo/Andy Wong) deputy director general of China Manned Space Agency. They will replace three astronauts currently on the

Chinese space station. Like those before them, they will stay there for roughly six months. The three will launch for space Thursday evening in China, from Jiuquan, on the edge of the Gobi Desert in northwestern China.

The three-person crew were sent in October last year and have been in space for 175 days, said Lin.

Chen Dong, who previously served on the Shenzhou 11 and Shenzhou 14 missions, is the group leader, while his two crewmates will be making their first trips to space. Chen Zhongrui was an air force pilot and Wang Jie, an engineer with the China Aerospace Science and



Chinese astronauts for the upcoming Shenzhou 20 mission from left, Wang Jie, captain Chen Dong and Chen Zhongrui wave as they meet with the press at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China, Wednesday, April 23, 2025.

(AP Photo/Andy Wong)

Technology Corporation. "I feel incomparable pride and accomplishment to go to space for my country again," Chen Dong told reporters on Wednesday. "Each journey to space is

unparalleled, I'm looking forward to gaining more experience and more breakthroughs through this flight." Chen Dong led construction of the space station during the Shenzhou 14 mission. □

# Nuggets coach optimistic Michael Porter Jr. will play Game 3 vs. Clippers despite sprained shoulder

By ARNIE STAPLETON

AP Sports Writer

**DENVER (AP)** — Michael Porter Jr. participated in the Denver Nuggets' practice Wednesday and interim coach David Adelman said he was hopeful Porter would play in Game 3 against the Los Angeles Clippers on Thursday night.

Adelman also said a stomach bug that had swept through the team earlier in the week, one that had him doubting if Jamal Murray would even play Monday night, was abating.

Porter sprained his left shoulder late in the Nuggets' 105-102 loss in Game 2 and wasn't on the floor when Denver missed desperation 3-pointers in the final seconds. He got hurt when Kris Dunn fell on him while the two scrambled for a loose ball. Porter was in significant pain afterward, grimacing as he got dressed and saying he'd never dealt with that kind of pain. He didn't speak with reporters Wednesday but appeared to be in relative comfort on the court at the end of practice.

"I'm very optimistic" he'll play Game 3, Adelman said. "Mike's one that I don't think gets enough credit for how tough he is and what he's played through over these years. So, his pain threshold is something that people don't understand and don't get that he plays with all year long. "So, do I know if Mike's going to play? No. But I do know if Mike can play, he will. So, trust Mike."

If Porter is limited or can't play at all, Peyton Watson would get more minutes, as would Russell Westbrook and Jaylen Pickett.

The best-of-seven first-round series is tied 1-1 and the Nuggets held a light practice before flying to Los Angeles. Before he got hurt, Porter had a terrific Game 2, scoring 15 points and grabbing a team-best 15 rebounds, following a 3-point performance in Denver's 112-110 overtime win in Game 1.

"Yeah, the 15 rebounds is a great stat for a guy that was more more engaged," Adelman said. "And that means he's in the paint.

He was hitting the offensive glass. He made an enormous 3 late. You know, that was a regret late (that) Michael wasn't on the court" when Christian Braun and Nikola Jokic missed 3-pointers to tie in the final, chaotic seconds. "So, yeah, I just thought he was much more engaged. He was in the paint a lot and a 6-10 guy like that really helps to have somebody on the glass where Nikola can be more aggressive to help with Kawhi (Leonard) and James (Harden) and Norman Powell attacking the basket."

#### Sick ward

Murray said after the game that he'd played through an illness, and Adelman said Wednesday the bug affected several members

of the organization, not just players. "A lot of us were" sick, Adelman said. "And Jamal, when he showed up I didn't know if he was going to play. He was very sick. But he got hydrated, they put all the meds in him, whatever they did, I don't know. But he was able to play 40-plus minutes feeling not so well. "He looked better today. You know how it is, every day you feel a little bit better. Obviously, get a good night's sleep tonight, have all day tomorrow, get ready to go tomorrow night."

#### Same guy

Denver won its first four games after firing coach Michael Malone and replacing him with Adelman, but nothing changed in Adelman's approach following his first loss.



Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard, right, drives past Denver Nuggets forward Michael Porter Jr., left, in the first half of Game 2 of a first-round NBA playoff series Monday, April 21, 2025, in Denver.

Associated Press

"No, because we could have lost Game 1," he said. "This is about the process of figuring out how to win four games.

It's not about records and all that stuff. It's just about the first to four. ... That's all I think about." □



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## NFL draft suits give prospects another way to cash in on their fame, flash their style on red carpet

By **LARRY LAGE**  
AP Sports Writer

**DETROIT (AP)** — Drake Maye planned to wear a custom suit for the NFL draft.

Hugo Boss gave the former North Carolina quarterback an offer he couldn't refuse. The clothing company, based in Germany and famed for its stylish fashion, paid Maye last year to make a late switch and wear one of its gray suits.

Maye accepted the inducement, walking the red carpet in Detroit in a simple Hugo Boss jacket and trousers. He saved his fancy threads for the next day. When Maye walked off a private plane and was whisked away for his introductory news conference as the New England Patriots' No. 3 pick overall, he was sporting the light khaki suit with Carolina blue embellishments that was designed and crafted for him to show off the previous night. Pantheon Limited founder



North Carolina quarterback Drake Maye poses on the red carpet ahead of the first round of the NFL football draft, Thursday, April 25, 2024, in Detroit.

Associated Press

Ethan Weisman and Baynes + Baker co-founder Ravi Punn teamed up to put Maye in the suit he ended up wearing in Foxborough, Massachusetts, the day after the

draft. "Sometime players get six figures to wear a suit because the NFL draft is like the Oscars of sports," Punn said in an interview with The Associated Press. "The suits are

seen for a few hours before the draft, during the draft, the next day when outfits are getting graded and forever online with social media." A year later, Weisman simply

shrugged his shoulders over Maye's audible in the Motor City. "There were no hard feelings because agents are simply doing their job when they're trying to work deals for their clients," Weisman told the AP. "And, there were a lot of pictures of him in our suit." Weisman expects some first-round picks to wear his suits Thursday night in Green Bay, several more while they watch the draft from home and even a few broadcasters, including ESPN's Mike Greenberg. He has learned, however, not to celebrate too early. "Green Bay is a pain to get to and I would love to not go there, but you have to build the relationship and make sure no one else is going to steal them," Weisman said in a telephone interview earlier this week. "In the back of my mind I know anything can happen, so I won't know for sure what they're wearing until they are on the red carpet. □